

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 265

By Armstrong

A RESOLUTION to recognize Bishop Warren Matthew Brown on the occasion of his retirement.

WHEREAS, the State of Tennessee has been exceptionally fortunate during its history to benefit from the outstanding leadership provided by those committed Ministers of the Gospel who lead churches across this State and who, with these congregations, provide the bedrock strength that defines an orderly and just society; and

WHEREAS, one such committed religious leader is Bishop Warren M. Brown, who faithfully led members of the African Methodist Episcopal (A.M.E.) Zion Church in numerous capacities for more than fifty years; and

WHEREAS, after having dedicated several decades of his life to this noble ministry, he took a much deserved retirement from his position as bishop in July 2012; and

WHEREAS, born in Knoxville, Tennessee, on August 14, 1941, Bishop Brown graduated from Austin High School before completing his Bachelor of Arts degree at Knoxville College; he also attended the Interdenominational Theological Center in Atlanta and earned his Doctor of Divinity from Livingstone College in 1978; and

WHEREAS, in January 1959, Bishop Warren Brown began preaching at his local church, First A.M.E. Zion Church in Knoxville, and later that year gained admission to the Tennessee Conference, at which time, Bishop H. T. Medford ordained him Deacon of Clinton Chapel A.M.E. Church in Knoxville; shortly thereafter, Bishop Brown received ordination as an Elder at Varick Chapel A.M.E. Zion Church in Asheville, North Carolina; and

WHEREAS, as Presiding Elder of the Boston District, New England Conference from 1973-1992, Bishop Warren M. Brown expanded the number of churches in the district from thirteen to twenty-seven; served as Associate Presiding Elder in the Virgin Islands Conference from 1980-1992; supervised the rebuilding of Beulah and Medford A.M.E. Zion Churches after

Hurricane Hugo; and was elected treasurer of the Presiding Elders Council in 1980, in which position he served for eleven years; and

WHEREAS, he has also served as pastor-builder of Walls Temple A.M.E. Zion Church in Albany, New York, member of the Board of Overseas Missions from 1968-1992, member of the Executive Committee World Methodist Council, four-term member of the Boston University Seminary Board of Visitors, and Secretary of the Livingstone College Board of Trustees for sixteen years; and

WHEREAS, on August 2, 1996, while serving as pastor of Trinity A.M.E. Zion Church in Washington, D.C., Bishop Warren Brown was elected and consecrated the 91st Bishop of the A.M.E. Zion Church during the 45th General Conference; and

WHEREAS, upon his consecration, he was assigned to the Western West Africa Episcopal Area, comprising Liberia, Cote d'Ivoire, East Ghana, West Ghana, and Mid-Ghana Conferences, but after an extraordinary eight years of spiritual and economic development in this area, he received a new assignment over the Mid-Atlantic II Episcopal District, which includes the Philadelphia, Baltimore, Virginia, East Tennessee-Virginia, India, London-Midland, and Angola Conferences; and

WHEREAS, throughout his term as bishop, he also organized a total of five new conferences for North Ghana and Togo, East and West Angola, and, just before his retirement, the Saint Vincent Conference; and

WHEREAS, in recognition of his admirable leadership, Bishop Brown has been the recipient of numerous honors and awards, including the Outstanding Service Award from the Livingstone College Alumni, recognition as one of a hundred most noted Tennessee natives by *The Knoxville Journal*, and induction into Morehouse College's Martin Luther King College of Preachers; and

WHEREAS, since beginning his well-deserved retirement, Bishop Brown is enjoying spending more time with his wife, Aurelia Sanders Brown; his children, Angelyne Elizabeth Brown and Anita Elisa Brown Bullock and her husband, James; his grandchildren, Justin Malik and Janee' Monique Bullock; and his brother, Daniel T. Brown, the first black mayor of Knoxville; and

WHEREAS, Bishop Warren Brown's lasting legacy will serve as a beautiful tribute to his parents, Reverend William Matthew and Edith McGinnis Brown, who throughout their lives wholly exemplified the highest principles of Christian faith, love, and compassion; and

WHEREAS, throughout his estimable career as a religious leader and humble servant of God, Bishop Brown has demonstrated the utmost ability and integrity, winning the unbridled respect and admiration of his friends, his family, and the many and diverse members of his faith; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor the ministry of Bishop Warren Matthew Brown, salute his impeccable character and his stalwart commitment to living a Christian life with courage and conviction, and extend to him our heartfelt wishes for a happy and fulfilling retirement and every continued success in his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.